IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 cancelled.

4. (Original) A method for preparing a blood sample for fluorescent analysis with a flow cytometer, comprising the steps of:

    a. contacting at least one leukocyte in said blood sample with an aqueous reagent that includes:

        i. a lipoprotein agent for resisting lysing of white blood cells; and

        ii. an effective amount of an agent for lysing erythrocytes; and

        iii. a physiologically compatible salt;

    b. labeling said at least one leukocyte with a fluorescent label associated with a known antibody;

    c. analyzing said at least one leukocyte with an analytical instrument.

Claims 5-25 cancelled.

26. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said reagent further includes an effective amount of a preservative.

27. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said lipoprotein of said reagent is a high density lipoprotein.

28. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said labeling step (b) occurs prior to said contacting step (a).

29. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said labeling step (b) occurs after said contacting step (a).

30. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 24 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).

31. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 48 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).

32. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least two weeks prior to said analyzing step (c).

33. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said instrument is a flow cytometer.

34. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said instrument is a microscope.

Claims 35-38 cancelled.

39. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a sample of fresh human whole blood for cytometric analysis, comprising the steps of:

a. contacting at least one leukocyte in said fresh blood sample while said fresh blood sample is still fresh with an aqueous reagent that includes:

i. a lipoprotein agent for resisting lysing of white blood cells; and

ii. an effective amount of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said fresh blood sample;

iii. a physiologically compatible salt; and

iv. a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof;

b. labeling said at least one leukocyte with a fluorescent label associated with a known antibody; and

c. analyzing said at least one leukocyte with an analytical instrument.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein:

a. said lipoprotein agent is about 5 to about 100/mg/dl;

b. said agent for lysing erythrocytes is about 10 to about 300 mg/dl; and

c. said preservative is about 1 to about 6 gm/dl.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said labeling step (b) occurs prior to said contacting step (a).

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said labeling step (b) occurs after said contacting step (a).

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 24 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 48 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least two weeks prior to said analyzing step (c).

46. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a sample of fresh human whole blood for cytometric analysis, comprising the steps of:

a. contacting at least one leukocyte in said fresh blood sample while said fresh blood sample is still fresh with an aqueous reagent that includes:

i. about 0.01 to about 5 parts by weight of a high density lipoprotein that is for resisting lysing of white blood cells; and

ii. about 0.1 to about 2 parts by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said fresh blood sample;

v. a physiologically compatible salt; and

vi. up to about 5 parts by weight of a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof;

b. labeling said at least one leukocyte with a fluorescent label associated with a known antibody; and

c. analyzing said at least one leukocyte with an analytical instrument by detecting fluorescence indicating the binding of said antibody with a surface antigen of said at least one leukocyte.